



SOUTHEAST NEWS

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September-October 1983

GENERAL SYNOD "14"

In five days, the General Synod delegates were in meetings more than 70 hours. More than 130 separate items of business were considered by the 705 delegates from 39 conferences. Worship, Bible study, major addresses, music, celebrations, receptions and elections all filled the days with excitement for delegates and visitors. While our Southeast Conference delegates did not always vote alike, they always voted to close debate.

The Rev. Carol Joyce Brun was elected Secretary of the United Church of Christ. She comes to that office having been an assistant to the President of the UCC.

As we reported in the last issue of the *SE News*, Libby Scott of Central Church in Atlanta was elected to the Executive Council.

Youth and Young Adult Ministries was designated as the one additional priority of the UCC for the next four years. This new priority joins the ongoing priorities of Peace and Family Life.

Major constitutional changes which influence the ministry were approved. These constitutional changes need to be ratified by two-thirds of the Conferences before they go into effect.

Stewardship also was the focus of the Synod where individuals and families were urged to contribute at least 10% of their income to their church and congregations were encouraged to give an amount equal to at least 25% of current expenses toward Our Church's Wider Mission Basic Support.

The United Church of Christ will continue to struggle with the theological and biblical understandings of marriage and family life. The UCC will also continue to study the focus and place of Health and Human Services within our structure as a Church.

The delegates left tired, hopeful, disappointed, excited and all seeking to be faithful to what the people of the Southeast Conference had asked them to do.

The delegates are available for reporting to local churches. They are as follows:

Ms. Freda Brown, 499 Emory Circle N.E., Atlanta, GA 30307 (Central Church, Atlanta)

Mr. Molbro V. Roberts, c/o Midway Congregational Church UCC, Midway, GA 31320

Mr. Mark W. Frey, Pastor, Barton Chapel, P.O. Box 234, Robbins, TN 37852

Rev. John Schofield, 409 S. Trammel Ave., Fairfax, AL 36854 (Pastor, Langdale CC, Langdale, AL)

Associate Delegates:

Rev. Emmett O. Floyd, Conference Minister, SE Conference, P.O. Box 29883, Atlanta, GA 30359

Rev. Floyd Carmack, SEC Moderator, 10654 Eagle Dr., Jonesboro, GA 30236 (Pastor, Bonanza, Jonesboro)

Women of the Word: Pilgrims Still

will be the theme of the UCC Women's Southern Regional Meeting to be held at Monteagle, TN on Oct. 14-16, 1983. Registration deadline is Sept. 20th—the cost is \$55.00. United Church of Christ Women from all over the Southern Region will be gathering to celebrate and affirm their identity as "Women of the Word." It promises to be an uplifting experience! One you won't want to miss. A registration form is printed on page 3. Hurry so you don't miss the September 20th deadline.

Conference Calendar

Sept. 5	Labor Day
Sept. 8	1st Day of Rosh Hashanah
Sept. 16-17	Alabama-Tennessee Association Meeting Church of the Savior, Knoxville, TN
Sept. 18	American Indian Ministry Sunday
Sept. 25 to October 2	Christian Education Week
Oct. 1	North Alabama Association Meeting, Old Liberty Grove Church, Town Creek, AL
Oct. 2	World Communion Sunday & Neighbors In Need All-Church Offering
Oct. 8	South Alabama Association Meeting, First CC Church, Andalusia, AL
Oct. 9-15	Laity Sunday; Access Sunday; Handicapped Awareness Week
Oct. 14-16	Southern Regional UCC Women, Monteagle, TN
Oct. 16	World Food Day
Oct. 22	East Alabama Association Meeting, Phenix City, AL
Oct. 23	World Order Sunday
Oct. 24	United NATIONS Day

Oct. 28-29	Georgia-South Carolina Association Meeting, Midway, GA
Oct. 30	Reformation Sunday

HOW ACCESSIBLE IS YOUR CHURCH???

Many congregations in the United Church of Christ will be observing Access Sunday and Handicapped Awareness Week in October. Since 1983 is the "International Religious Year of Persons with Disabilities," your congregation may wish to make a special effort to make your facilities accessible and to celebrate the gifts of the disabled in your congregation.

REVISION OF "MINISTER'S PARSONAGE ALLOWANCE AND SOCIAL SECURITY" BOOKLET

Conrad Teitel, author of the "Minister's Parsonage Allowance and Social Security" booklet, has reported that the Internal Revenue Service has postponed—for most ministers—the effective date of the Revised Ruling 83-3, which limits the interest and property tax deductions for ministers having a parsonage allowance. However, ministers who bought houses *after* January 2, 1983, are immediately affected by the Revised Ruling 83-3.

If a minister "owned and occupied a home before Jan. 2, 1983, (or had a contract to purchase a home before Jan. 3, 1983, and subsequently owns and occupies that home), the revenue ruling will not be applied to that minister until the earlier of the date on which the minister no longer occupies that home or January 1, 1985," states the IRS Announcement 83-100.

This ruling, as well as new Social Security legislation, will be fully explained in the new "Minister's Parsonage Allowance and Social Security" booklet, which will be available in December.

PRIORITY: PEACE

In the last issue of the *SE News*, we reported that Rev. David L. Beebe of Pilgrim Congregational UCC in Chattanooga, TN read a collection of his own peace poems in a Peace Celebration in that city. We thought the people in the Southeast Conference would enjoy reading one of his poems:

"BLESSED ARE THE MEEK" (written March 18, 1983)

There have been some who walked upon the world,
gracing its earthliness with other dreams,
some promise of the creature that might rise out
of our earthling chronicle. And we have been
astounded, for a moment paused, then disbelieved,

or angrily denied.

How should we be expected to receive these intimations of those coming ones who shall be wiser than ourselves are wise; who shall be stronger, with a gentle strength; who shall transcend, as once our race did so the creatures which are beastly in our eyes.

Yet even in ourselves the fire is struck. Here, in our very frame, our hearts, our minds, smolders the tinder which might burst in flame. We are the restless peacemakers not yet at peace. We are the ones who could perceive Truth with pure hearts. And on our lips the Name.

Courage, my sisters! brothers! Gently come, inherit earth. Our sure nobility is gentle and humane. The world will wait in wonder, and will set its arms aside when, from a thousand homes the voices speak, crying that only Mercy shall be great.

In Brief ...

Steve Akard, Student Associate Pastor of Church of the Savior, UCC, Knoxville, TN, is asking that any local pastors who would be pleased to do so send Rev. John Lackey the names of any UCC students from their congregations who are or will be moving, or who have moved to the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. Write to Rev. John Lackey, Church of the Savior, United Church of Christ, Weisgarber and Lonas Roads, Knoxville, TN 37919. Perhaps this would be a good service for all local pastors to provide for each other!

SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE OCWM REPORT (1/83-6/83)

Belvidere, 1st United	\$2,207.59
Birmingham, 1st	3,015.87
Birmingham, Pilgrim	2,615.00
Chattanooga, Pilgrim	6,192.00
Cullman, St. John's	3,600.00
Deer Lodge C.C.	660.00
Fairfield Glade Community	1,188.75
Garden City C.C.	115.50
Glen Mary C.C.	15.00

Huntsville, United	1,575.00
Knoxville, Church of the Savior	450.00
Montgomery, 1st	3,179.93
Nashville, Brookmeade	3,250.00
Nashville, 1st E&R	2,843.75
Nashville, Howard	200.00
Pleasant Hill, Community	5,000.00
Robbins, Barton Chapel	125.00
Sweetwater, 1st	250.00

Total AL/TN Association \$36,483.39

Caddo, 1st \$900.00

Total North AL Association \$900.00

East Tallassee, C.C. \$510.00

Total Central AL Association \$510.00

Total East AL Association \$10,991.00

Andalusia, Antioch	\$270.00
Baker, Pyron Chapel	150.00
Headland, Blackwood	500.00

Total South AL/NW FL Association \$920.00

Atlanta, Central	\$8,499.96
Bowman, Liberty	200.00
Braselton, Macedonia	200.00
Charleston, Circular	1,825.00
Charleston, Plymouth	1,138.68
Demorest, Federated	216.00
Jonesboro, Bonanza	500.00
Lilburn, Button Gwinnett	424.07
Marietta, Pilgrimage	2,005.00
Midway, Congregational	400.00

Total GA/SC Association \$15,408.71

Total OCWM Jan. to June, 1983 \$65,213.10

HUNGER ACTION FUND

How can you, a member of the United Church of Christ help to:

... provide grants to more than two dozen local and regional hunger-related projects?

... participate in public-policy advocacy with the U.S. Congress and state legislatures?

... provide consultations among UCC conferences engaged in hunger-related projects?

... participate in ecumenical organizations working on hunger issues?

... increase hunger awareness in our churches and communities?

By giving to the UCC Hunger Action Fund, you can help to make all of this—and more—possible. The Hunger Action Fund is the one appeal in our denomination that is focused entirely on hunger concerns.

Most congregations in the UCC will receive gifts for the Hunger Action Fund between World Communion Sunday (Oct. 2nd) and Thanksgiving Sunday (Nov. 24th). Please give as generously as you are able!

PRIORITY: FAMILY LIFE

Wanted: Pictures of family life celebrations in your church and conference for possible publication in the newsletter, "Families." Please send with caption to: UCBHM, 132 West 31st Street, 17th Floor, New York, NY 10001, Att.: F. Johnson.

This newsletter is available free of charge to all interested churches and church groups. Write: United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, 132 West 31st Street, New York, NY 10001, Attention: Faith A. Johnson.

NEWS & NOTES

We welcome two of our UCC Army Chaplains to our area. Chaplain (LTC) Stanley G. Roat and Chaplain (MAJ) Lafayette T. Wilkins have recently reported to Fort Gordon near Augusta, Georgia.

Ms. Karen Knott, a Vanderbilt Divinity student, who has been supply pastor for our new church, Church of the Good Shepherd, in Crossville, TN, has resigned to accept a scholarship to study with the World Council of Churches in Geneva, Switzerland. We thank her for her service here and wish her well in her pursuits.

Mr. Mark W. Frey has resigned as pastor of Barton's Chapel at Robbins and Glen Mary Congregational Christian in Tennessee. He and his wife will serve as Habitat for Humanity directors in Zaire, Africa for two years. Our prayers and best wishes go with them.

A JED Teacher Training Event was held on August 13, 1983, in Huntsville, Alabama. Huntsville UCC was a co-sponsor of this event. Ellen Bergman and Carol Johnson, members of Huntsville, led a workshop for the Elementary Age Group. Ellen Bergman also led a workshop entitled "Christian Education in Small Churches."

Curt's Nuggets

(From the desk of Curtis Schumacher, Pleasant Hill, TN)

A Christian can never delegate his privileges and responsibilities to someone else.

NIN Offering Offers Help

Please give generously to the 1983 Neighbors in Need offering in order to support program for children, the elderly, the sick, the disadvantaged, and other neighbors in need in our country. You can make a difference!

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**This transcription was recorded on July 20, 2013 by Mike Stroud, director
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Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ.**

